Hijack attempt on AIR Seychelles

614. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent hijack attempt on board a scheduled Air Seychelles flight from Mumbai to Seychelles *via* Male has been investigated;

(b) if so, what are the results of the findings;

(c) what action has been taken against those responsible for the security lapse; and

(d) the steps taken to make security check at airports more foolproof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) On 9.9.2002, Air Seychelles flight HM 017 left Mumbai Airport at the scheduled time for Male and Seychelles. 30 minutes before approach of Male Airport, a passenger by name Shri Chandra Babu Sashi Raj threatened one of the Airhostesses with a knife and wanted to enter the cockpit forcibly. He was overpowered by the crew of the aircraft and on arrival at Male Airport, he was handed over to the Male Authorities.

The enquiry did not fix responsibility on any individual but it has revealed that it was fault on the part of Airport Security Unit which failed to detect the knife and that the incident could have been averted if secondary/ladder point checking was carried out by the airlines.

To further tighten security BCAS has reiterated instructions regarding secondary ladder point checks to all airlines.

Purchase on new aircrafts by AI for US operation

615. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India would buy 17 aircrafts for U.S. operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the total cost involved and by when the new fleet will be operational;

(d) the details of the total aircraft that are in operation in Air India;

(e) whether Government have studied the profits of U.S. operations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) A final view is yet to be taken by Air India on the fleet expansion plan.

(d) There are 28 aircrafts in operation in Air India which include 6 B747-400, 2 B747-300, 4 B747-200, 2 A300-B4 and 14 A310-300.

(e) and (f) Air India has earned a cash profit of Rs. 243.14 crores, Rs. 253.21 crores and Rs. 279.86 crores in the years 2001-02, 2000-01 and 1999-2000 respectively in respect of their US operations.

Hijacking bid

616. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got the reports from the Mauritius Government about the recent hijacking bid by an Indian;

(b) whether it is a fact that the crew of the Air Mauritius flight overacted and termed the whole incident as a hijacking bid; and

(c) if so, the action taken to sort the issue with the Mauritian Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.